

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application.

1. (Previously presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.
2. (Previously presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment nucleic acid sequence having from about 50 to about 100 nucleotide residues; wherein said fragment nucleic acid sequence exhibits complete complementarity to a second nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.
3. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprises a microsatellite sequence.
4. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprises a region having a single nucleotide polymorphism.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16, wherein said rice protein or fragment thereof is a homologue of a dicot plant protein or fragment thereof.
7. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16, wherein said rice protein or fragment thereof is a homologue of a non-rice monocot plant protein or fragment thereof.

8. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16, wherein said rice protein or fragment thereof is a homologue of a non-rice cereal protein or fragment thereof.

9. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16, wherein said rice protein or fragment thereof is a homologue of a bacterial protein or fragment thereof.

Claims 10-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a rice protein or fragment thereof from Table 1, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprises a fragment nucleic acid molecule having from about 50 to about 100 nucleotide residues of the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1. ✓

17. (Previously presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule having between 90% and 100% sequence identity with a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof. ✓

18. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 17, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule has between 99% and 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a microsatellite sequence.

20. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a region having a single nucleotide polymorphism.

21. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 17, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule consists of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.